

Clauses - Overview

Introduction

1) A clause is a combination of words containing a subject and a predicate.

Peter goes to the gym. (one clause)

Peter goes to the gym after he finishes his work. (two clauses)

2) There are two types of clauses in English:

a) an independent (main) clause contains a subject and a predicate and expresses a finished thought. Thus it can stand alone as a sentence.

Pam likes drawing and painting.

Andy is currently unemployed.

Note that the independent clause is a simple sentence when dependent clauses within one sentence are absent.

b) a dependent (subordinate) clause gives additional information to the main sentence, thus it cannot stand alone as a separate sentence.

*Mr. Klarkson, **whose works are critically acclaimed**, has published a new book.*

*Mary started laughing **when she saw a pug wearing a costume**.*

An independent clause forms a complex sentence together with a dependent clause.

*I'd like to know **why I can't book a room at this hotel**.*

*The woman stood crying **as people were passing by**.*

Short Story Dialogue

- *Have you decided where you'd like to go this summer?*
- *I haven't asked my family if they plan on doing a huge family gathering.*
- *Well, until you get the details, we can't book anything.*
- *I understand that. I promise that I'll call my parents today. You can join us; everyone is super friendly.*
- *I'm not sure that I'm ready to meet your huge family yet.*

Independent Practice - Clauses - Overview

1) Mark independent clauses as I and dependent ones as D.

- a. Students have to finish their assignments by 6 p.m.
- b. The cafe that is located across the street serves the best coffee.
- c. She doesn't like the men who smoke.
- d. I doubt that it'll rain tomorrow.
- e. Nick's aunt, who speaks 5 languages, lives in Spain.
- f. Apple pies that don't have a lot of apples in them are not worth my attention!
- g. My mom wants to go to Paris and see the Eiffel Tower.
- h. I will keep on fighting until I reach my goals.
- i. I'd rather stay at home tonight; the weather is depressing.
- j. The teacher was asking questions but no one answered.

Independent Practice: Answers - Clauses - Overview

1) Mark independent clauses as I and dependent ones as D.

- a. Students have to finish their assignments by 6 p.m. (I).
- b. The cafe **that is located across the street (D)** serves the best coffee (I).
- c. She doesn't like the men (I) **who smoke (D)**.
- d. I doubt (I) **that it'll rain tomorrow (D)**.
- e. Nick's aunt, **who speaks 5 languages (D)**, lives in Spain (I).
- f. Apple pies **that don't have a lot of apples in them (D)** are not worth my attention (I)!
- g. My mom wants to go to Paris and see the Eiffel Tower (I).
- h. I will keep on fighting (I) **until I reach my goals (D)**.
- i. I'd rather stay at home tonight (I); the weather is depressing (I).
- j. The teacher was asking questions (I) **but no one answered (D)**.